



MONTANA 2012 CANDIDATE CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch

Elections and Government Services Division

sos.mt.gov • soselections@mt.gov

DEADLINE	<i>*Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on specified day unless otherwise noted</i>	STATUTE
January 12	First day for candidates to file for office	13-10-201
March 5	Deadline for independent, minor party, indigent, new political party and major party presidential signed petitions to be submitted to election administrators; additional signatures (if necessary) may be submitted up to the March 12 deadline for filing	13-10-405 13-10-503 13-10-601
March 12	Deadline for candidates to file for office	13-10-201
	Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy	13-10-325
	Deadline for county election administrators to file verified independent, minor party, indigent, new political party, and major party presidential petitions with Secretary of State	13-10-201 13-10-503 13-10-601
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates must file appropriate paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices in order for their names to appear on ballot	13-37-201
After March 12	Election administrators determine whether nonpartisan primary local elections and parties' primary local elections need to be held	13-10-209 13-14-115
April 27	Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election	13-10-211
May 6	Legislative candidates must live in appropriate legislative district (for 6 months next preceding General Election)	Article V Section 4, MT Const.
June 5	PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION	13-1-107(1)
By June 19	County canvass completed, official results are certified	13-15-401
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-36-102(1)
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to apply for a recount (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-16-201 13-16-301
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful primary write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-10-204
By July 2	State canvass must be completed, official results are certified	13-15-502
August 13	Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy	13-10-325
August 15	Deadline for presidential independent and presidential minor party candidates to submit signed petitions for nomination to county election administrators; additional signatures (if necessary) may be submitted up to the August 22 deadline	13-10-504
August 22	Deadline for presidential independent and presidential minor party candidates to file declaration for nomination with the Secretary of State	13-10-504
	Deadline for county election administrators to file verified presidential independent and presidential minor party candidates' petitions with Secretary of State	13-10-504
September 28	Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election	13-10-211
November 6	FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104(1)
By November 20	County canvass completed	13-15-401
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election candidates to apply for a recount (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-16-201 13-16-301
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful general write-in candidates to file a written Declaration of Acceptance (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-10-204
By December 3	State canvass must be completed, official results are certified	13-15-502



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch
Elections and Government Services Division
sos.mt.gov • soselections@mt.gov

Filing for Office

Pursuant to [13-10-201](#), MCA, in a partisan election, an individual may not file a Declaration for Nomination or a Declaration of Intent for more than one political party. A candidate may not file for more than one public office. (This does not include precinct committeemen and committeewomen candidates.) Individuals cannot file for nonpartisan offices as independent candidates or as political party candidates.

Candidates who file with the Secretary of State (except write-in candidates) can file online at sos.mt.gov/Elections/Filing or can download filing forms at sos.mt.gov/Elections/Filing beginning when the candidate filing period opens.

Filing Fees

Under [13-10-202](#), MCA:

- (1) for offices having an annual salary of \$2,500 or less and candidates for the legislature, \$15;
- (2) for county offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 0.5% of the total annual salary;
- (3) for other offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 1% of the total annual salary;
- (4) for offices in which compensation is paid in fees, \$10;
- (5) for officers of political parties, presidential electors and officers who receive no salary or fees, no filing fee is required.

Write-in Candidates

Pursuant to [13-15-206](#), MCA, a write-in vote may only be counted if the oval, box, or other designated voting area on the ballot is marked.

For a primary election, declared write-in candidates for partisan offices file as party candidates; for a general election write-in candidates do not file with a partisan, nonpartisan or independent designation.

Under [13-10-211](#), MCA, if there are declared candidates for a position, a write-in candidate running for an office must file a Declaration of Intent and pay the filing fee at the time of filing, in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted. However, if an election is held and a write-in candidate is qualified for and seeks the office for which the candidate is written in, and no candidate has filed for the office (including any declared write-in candidate), a Declaration of Intent does not have to be filed for the write-in votes to be counted.

Under [13-10-204](#), MCA, in order to accept a primary nomination, a write-in nominee must file a written Declaration of Acceptance; have received at least 5% of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election; comply with [13-37-126](#), MCA; and have paid the filing fee at the time of filing, unless claiming indigency under [13-10-203](#), MCA, or if exempt from filing under [13-10-211](#)(7), MCA (in which case the candidate shall pay the filing fee at the time of nomination).

Under [13-15-111](#), MCA, a write-in candidate who receives the most votes in a general election must file a written Declaration of Acceptance; comply with the provisions of [13-37-126](#), MCA; and pay the filing fee if not already required to have paid it at the time of filing, or if claiming indigency comply with [13-10-203](#), MCA.

Term Limits

For information on term limits, visit sos.mt.gov/Elections/Term_Limits.

Campaign Finance - Commissioner of Political Practices

Statement of Candidate Form must be filed with the Commissioner of Political Practices within 5 days of filing for office. This form may be found at politicalpractices.mt.gov.

Information for filing reports of campaign contributions and expenditures is provided by the Commissioner of Political Practices. You may contact the Commissioner's office at 406-444-2942.